

J.C. Watts, Jr.
Chairman
4th District, Oklahoma

House Meets at 10:00 a.m. for Legislative Business

Anticipated Floor Action:

H.R. 3660 Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act

H.R. 3671 Wildlife and Sport Fish Restorations Improvement Act

* * *

H.R. 3660—Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act

Floor Situation: The House will consider H.R. 3660 as its first order of business today. Yesterday, the Rules Committee granted a closed rule providing two hours of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee. The rule provides one motion to recommit.

Summary: H.R. 3660 prohibits abortion providers from utilizing partial-birth abortion procedures. As defined by the bill, such a procedure involves a partial vaginal delivery of a living unborn child until some portion of the child is partially outside the body of the mother before killing it and completing the delivery. The bill imposes fines or potential imprisonment of up to two years, and allows the father (if he's married to the mother) or maternal grandparents (if the birth mother is under 18 years of age) to file a civil lawsuit against the doctor for monetary damages. The bill, however, includes an exception to the ban when a doctor performs this procedure to save the life of the mother.

In the 105th Congress, The Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act (S. 6—H.R. 1122) failed to win enough support to override a Presidential veto. It passed by the House on March 20, 1997 by a vote of 295-136, and by the Senate on May 20, 1997 by a vote of 64-36. However, it was vetoed by the President on October 10, 1997. On July 23, 1998, the vote to override the President's veto was successful in the House, but failed to achieve the necessary two-thirds majority in the Senate. This Congress, the Senate passed the 1999 Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act (S. 1692) on October 21, 1999 by a vote of 63-34.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 3660 will have no significant impact on the federal budget. H.R. 3660 was introduced by Mr. Canady on February, 15, 2000 and was not considered by a Committee.

Views: The Republican Leadership strongly encourages passage of the bill. President Clinton stated that he will veto this legislation.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXIX, #9, March 31, 2000.

* * *

H.R. 3671—Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act

Floor Situation: The House will consider H.R. 3671 as its second order of business today. Yesterday the Rules Committee granted an open rule that allows one hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Resources Committee. The rule makes it in order that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Resources Committee be considered as an original bill. The rule also provides for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Summary: H.R. 3671 amends both the 1937 Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and the 1950 Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act to ensure that the funds allocated for administration of programs under these statutes are used for their intended purposes. Current law levies excise taxes on guns, ammo, archery equipment, and fishing equipment to fund state wildlife programs. Currently up to 8 percent of the funds collected under the Pittman-Robertson Act and up to 6 percent of the funds collected under the Dingell-Johnson Act may be used to administer and execute funding of state wildlife programs. The bill seeks to correct misuse of these funds by the Federal Aid division of United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

The bill makes a number of identical changes to both laws harmonizing the allocation and oversight of administrative funds. These amendments include (1) establishing a cap of \$5 million annually for FYs 2001-2003 to fund administrative costs and up to \$7 million annually for administrative costs adjusted for inflation thereafter; (2) creating 12 categories of administrative expenses that costs must fall under in order to be used; (3) prohibiting administrative funds from being used to supplement any function for which general appropriations for the FWS are made; and (4) returns any unused funds to the states within 60 days of the end of the fiscal year.

H.R. 3671 also establishes a number of new rules requiring regular audits of these programs to prohibit the misuse of the administrative funds. The measure also establishes a number of annual certifications designed to create more thorough oversight of the Federal Aid Program's administrative funds. Furthermore, the bill creates the position Assistant Director for Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs to administer and oversee the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs under the Director of Fish and Wildlife Service, while eliminating the Chief of the Division of Federal Aid or any similar position.

Views: The Republican Leadership supports passage of the bill. At press time the Clinton Administration has not taken an official position on the bill, however it has expressed concerns with several provisions in the bill.

Amendments: At press time *Legislative Digest* knew of the following amendments:

Mr. Young (AK) may offer a manager's amendment to the bill that would make a number of technical changes that specifically enumerate the amounts of money made available to administer the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts in FYs 2001-2003 and gives the method for determining the amount of funding made available for FY 2004 and beyond. *Staff Contact: Christna Delmont x5-0568*

Mr. Udall (CO) may offer an amendment that would require the Secretary of the Interior to inform the House Resources Committee and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee to what extent compliance with H.R. 3671 has caused a reduction in the number of personnel assigned to administer the Federal Assistance Program for State Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs, as well as other information related to more efficient administration of wildlife and sport fish programs. *Staff Contact: Stan Sloss x5-2161*

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXIX, #9, March 31, 2000

* * *

To subscribe to this publication via e-mail, please send an e-mail to LegDigest@mail.house.gov and type "SUBSCRIBE" in the subject line.

Eric Hultman: *Managing Editor*

Greg Mesack, Jennifer Lord &
Brendan Shields: *Legislative Analysts*

House
REPUBLICAN
Conference

Legislative
Digest

<http://hillsource.house.gov/LegislativeDigest>
